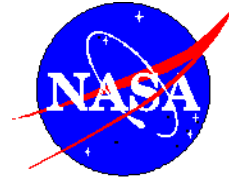


NASA News

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Notice to Mariners: Rocket Launch May 9 - 17

The NASA Wallops Flight Facility will conduct a sounding rocket campaign to investigate nighttime thunderstorms May 9 through 17. The project will consist of two nights of launch activities. Each series consists of a Viper rocket, a Nike-Orion, and then another Viper.

The first launch series is to be conducted with nighttime thunderstorms west of the Chesapeake Bay. The second night requires no thunderstorm activity. The daily launch window is 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. The area in the Atlantic Ocean that poses a danger to mariners during the project is posted on the Boaters Launch Information page under the Wallops web site at www.wff.nasa.gov. Boaters are asked to remain clear of this area during operations.

Wallops will operate an alternating red and white beacon at 30 minutes before the firings. The beacon will operate until the mission is completed and the danger to mariners no longer exists. In addition, boaters may tune to Marine Channel 12 to monitor the operations.

Completion of the mission will be noted on the Boaters Launch Information page on the Wallops web site at www.wff.nasa.gov as well as the Wallops launch status line at 757-824-2050.

Thank you for your assistance and support.

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